

COVID Guidance for Collective Worship - Roadmap Step 3: 17th May 2021

The Bishops Conference of England & Wales has issued new guidance for the safe use of our Churches for Public Worship and Private Prayer. You can read the full guidance here:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/covid-guidance-collective-worship/>

1. Summary:

Each Church will update its own risks assessment based on its size and resources, especially its human resources. This means that each parish will be working slightly differently according to its own risk assessment.

2. Mitigations:

The following all still apply:

- Face coverings over mouth & nose,
- Hand sanitiser on entry,
- Track and Trace (via the QR code on a mobile phone when no steward on duty)

3. Capacity:

After reviewing the capacity for both St Mary Magdalene (Town Centre) and St Martha's (Little Common) we have been able to revise our capacity limits

St Mary Magdalene

- Prior to 17th May: 47 units of people, up to a maximum of 60 individuals.
- From 17th May: 60 units of people, up to a maximum of 80 individuals

Limitations:

- It is a narrow building with no side aisles, this means it remains prudent to continue with the marshalling for Holy Communion.
- A small section of the Church has been cordoned off, due to wear and tear to the masonry around the window.
- We wish to keep the Font central in the Church as a sign of the baptismal dignity shared by the priesthood of all believers.

St Martha's

- Prior to 17th May: 36 units of people, up to a maximum of 50 individuals
- From 17th May: 43 units of people, up to a maximum of 60 individuals

Limitations:

- The benches at St Martha's are screwed down and not easily moved.

4. Stewarding

As we are close to our capacities on Sundays (*and have even had to turn a few people away*), as per the guidance, we will continue with stewarding at all weekend Masses, including Saturday morning Masses. On weekdays, we do not necessarily have to have stewards to deal with capacity issues. However, stewards are currently performing the dual role of cleaning and sanitising the Church. Even though, we do not need to clean after every single activity, it is still necessary to perform a thorough daily clean, and so:

- a) We will still need stewards at daily Mass, who will then clean afterwards, or,
- b) We need a dedicated team of cleaners who will undertake a daily clean, which could take place at any reasonable time of the day to suit the team.

5. Cleaning and Sanitising

When the Church is open, the Church should be thoroughly cleaned at least once a day. If required, additional cleaning will be undertaken after a liturgy or service.

6. Public Masses & Services

With reference to the needs for stewarding and cleaning, our public Masses remain as:

- 9am Sunday (St Martha's)
- 11am & 6pm Sunday (St Mary Magdalene)
- 6.30pm on Thursday (St Mary Magdalene)
- 10am on Friday (St Mary Magdalene)
- 10am on Saturday (St Mary Magdalene).

Confessions: 10.30am on Saturdays (30 minutes)

Adoration: 10.30am on Saturdays (30 minutes)

Additional public Masses will be celebrated specially or added to the list only when the cleaning mitigations and / or stewarding requirements are met.

7. Funerals

The 30 cap on funeral attendance has now been lifted, and the capacities of the individual building's risk assessment now apply; these are listed in section 3 above.

8. Liturgy: the following remain suspended:

- The physical sign of peace,
- communal signing,
- communion under both kinds